



STATE OF CONNECTICUT – COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2015, 7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman - Sean Kelly, David Hurley, Stanislav Moline and Alternates Donna Resutsek (arrived at 7:47pm) and Stefanie Cunningham

ABSENT: Vice Chairman - Chris Todd and Gilbert Gamboa

STAFF

PRESENT: Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner

I. CALL TO ORDER:

Chairman Kelly called the Economic Development Commission meeting to order at 7:04 pm

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

III. ACTIVE BUSINESS:

1. Discussion Regarding Future Business Event

- a. Letter to Lisa Houlihan, Town Planner from Candice Corcione, Executive Director/Tolland County Chamber of Commerce dated, 12/18/14. (20th Annual Business Showcase)

The Commission discussed highlighting the same materials as presented at the April 9, 2014 business event, GoLocal, the Tax Abatement Policy, testimonials from businesses that received Tax Abatements, and the Farmers' Market). Lisa M. Houlihan, Town Planner, will ask Dianne Trueb, Market Master, if she is interested in attending as representative of the Farmers' Market.

The Commission discussed the cost of obtaining a table at the event and agreed to undertake the cost as a Commission.

The Commission discussed canceling the April meeting in exchange for voluntary attendance at the Tolland County Chamber of Commerce 20th Annual Business Showcase on Tuesday, April 7, 2015. The Commission agreed.

BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION CANCELED ITS APRIL 8, 2015, REGULAR MEETING IN EXCHANGE FOR VOLUNTARY ATTENDANCE TO THE TOLLAND

**COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 20TH ANNUAL BUSINESS SHOWCASE ON
TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015, AT MANEELEY'S, 65 RYE STREET, SOUTH WINDSOR.**

2. Report: Tolland County Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Houlihan stated she was unable to attend this month's meeting, but distributed copies of the updated Tolland County Business Guide.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

3. Report: Agricultural Initiatives

Ms. Houlihan stated there is no update on Bahler Farm. The Department of Agriculture has approved the Pitney Farm for the Community Farmland Preservation Program; a program created to preserve farms 30 acres or less. .

**BY CONSENSUS, THE COMMISSION SUPPORTED THE JOINT ACQUISITION OF
THE JONES FARM LOCATED ON THE EASTERLY SIDE OF PINNEY STREET,
PURSUANT TO THE FARMLAND PRESERVATION PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY
FARMS PRESERVATION PROGRAM.**

4. Report: Business Directory/Business Surveys and Site Visits

The Commission reviewed the GoLocal monthly activity report and the term bounce rate.. Chairman Kelly asked staff to find out if GoLocal has a mechanism to track the number of times GoLocal is downloaded.

Commissioner Cunningham inquired how long the Commission has had the site and if it is still a viable project. She suggested holding another event to promote GoLocal. Commissioner Hurley noted how hard it is to get the businesses to attend events. Commissioner Hurley inquired if any of the businesses have utilized GoLocal's micro sites. Ms. Houlihan will ask Troy Ciesco, Land Use Technician, to look into this matter.

Ms. Houlihan suggested focusing on promoting GoLocal as a business directory versus focusing on getting businesses to use microsites. Mr. Ciesco is auditing the database and updating it. Commissioner Hurley suggested that the GoLocal site include a sub-category. Ms. Houlihan will ask Mr. Ciesco to see if staff can add sub-categories to the site.

The Commission reviewed the updated list. Ms. Houlihan suggested another article in the Ellington Connection. Commissioner Hurley suggested creating a poster board to place on a tri-pod at the Farmers' Market for businesses to see. Commissioner Hurley also suggested placing GoLocal posters in public areas at various Town facilities.

Once the database is updated, a new list will be emailed to commissioners.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

5. Report: Tax Incentive Programs

Nothing to report at this time.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

6. Report: Current Economic Activity

Ms. Houlihan reported that Cold Creek Brewery, LLC recently obtained its license and applied for local permits. She also noted that the Barn Yard project has started.

NO MOTIONS OR DECISIONS

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

1. Approval of the February 11, 2015, meeting minutes.

MOVED (RESUTEK), SECONDED (MOLINE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 11, 2015 MEETING MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

2. Correspondence:

Memo from Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Notice of Public Hearing, March 25, 2015, Diversion of Water Permit for The Connecticut Water Company and the University of Connecticut.

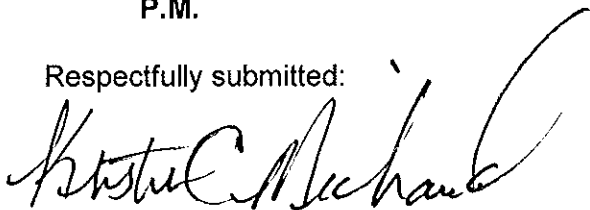
Ms. Houlihan stated this correspondence is part of notice requirements the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has to provide for water diversion applications. Commissioner Hurley explained why the water diversion is necessary.

Ms. Houlihan noted another piece of correspondence regarding a free workshop on the Fundamentals of Municipal Economic Development. She described the workshop

V. ADJOURNMENT:

MOVED (CUNNINGHAM), SECONDED (RESUTEK) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ADJOURN THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION MEETING AT 8:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kristin Michaud", written in a cursive style.

Kristin Michaud
Recording Clerk